

5) *Kaśyapa and Garuḍa*. Garuḍa is a mighty son of Kaśyapa by his wife Vinatā. Vinatā made a bet with her sister Kadrū. Kadrū won the bet. Vinatā became Kadrū's maid-servant as a result of the bet. To be relieved of this bondage Vinatā's son Garuḍa had to bring Amṛta from Devaloka and give it to Kadrū and her Nāga-sons. Garuḍa agreed and flew up to Heaven to fetch Amṛta.

On the way, he visited his father Kaśyapa who was performing penance on the Gandhamādana mountain. He asked his father to give him some food, as he was very hungry. Kaśyapa told him the following story:— "Long ago a sage named Vibhāvasu lived near this place. He and his younger brother named Supratika began to quarrel over the sharing of their father's wealth. The elder brother transformed the younger brother into an elephant by a curse and the younger brother turned the elder into a tortoise by his curse. They are still living in yonder lake as elephant and tortoise and continue like enemies. If you eat both of them, you will be strong enough to fight against the Devas and get possession of Amṛta for yourself."

On hearing this, Garuḍa went to the lake and caught the elephant and tortoise in his claws and flew up into the sky. The mountains began to tremble and a whirlwind swept the Heavens when Garuḍa beat with his wings. He flew about here and there unable to find a convenient place to sit and enjoy his meal. On the way, his eye caught sight of a huge banyan tree spreading its branches far and wide, to a distance of 100 yojanas around it. When he perched on one of its branches with the elephant and tortoise, the branch broke and fell down. From that branch certain sages known as Bālakhilyas were hanging with their heads downwards. So, to prevent them from falling to the ground, Garuḍa lifted it in his beak and began to fly up again. Unable to find a suitable spot where he could deposit the branch with the sages, Garuḍa returned to his father again. At the request of Kaśyapa, the Bālakhilyas went to the Himālayas. He showed Garuḍa a vast, snow-clad mountain on which he could deposit the broken branch he was carrying. Garuḍa flew to that mountain and ate up the elephant and tortoise and thus gained strength to fight with the Devas for Amṛta. After that he proceeded to Heaven. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapters 29-31).

6) *Other Birth of Kaśyapa*. In Cākṣuṣa Manvantara, the sage Sutapas performed a penance along with his wife Pṛṣni for 12,000 years. Lord Viṣṇu appeared to them and asked what boon they wished to ask. They prayed that the Lord should take birth as their son. Viṣṇu granted their prayer and was born as their son.

In the next Manvantara (the period of Vaivasvata Manu) Sutapas and Pṛṣni were re-born as Kaśyapa and Aditi respectively. At that time also Mahāviṣṇu was born to Aditi as Vāmana. (See under Vāmana). In this birth, Kaśyapa had many other wives besides Aditi. Surasā was one of those wives. (Bhāgavata, 10th Skandha).

It was this Kaśyapa himself who was reborn as Vasudeva and Aditi became Devakī. Surasā was born as Rohiṇī, another wife. There is another reason for Kaśyapa and Aditi to take birth for the third time. Once Kaśyapa had prepared to perform a Yāga. All arrangements were complete. But the sacrificial cow

alone was not available. Kaśyapa solved the problem by stealing a cow from Varuṇa's cattle-shed. Aditi and Surasā concealed it in the Āśrama. Enraged at the theft of his cow, Varuṇa complained to Brahmā. A curse was pronounced by Brahmā and Varuṇa that as a punishment for stealing and hiding the cow, Kaśyapa should be reborn as a cowherd and Aditi and Surasā should be reborn as the cowherd's wives. It was by this curse that Kaśyapa, Aditi and Surasā were reborn as Vasudeva Devakī and Rohiṇī respectively. (Devī Bhāgavata, 4th Skandha).

7) *Paraśurāma's gift of land to Kaśyapa*. Paraśurāma performed a Yāga after exterminating all Kṣatriya Kings. At that Yāga he gifted all the lands he had conquered till then to Kaśyapa. In Mahābhārata, Araṇya Parva, Chapter 117, there is a reference to this gift.

8) *Kaśyapa and Kerala*. After Paraśurāma went round the world eighteen times and exterminated the Kṣatriya Kings he performed a Yāga. At that Yāga he gave the whole earth as dakṣiṇā to Kaśyapa. After that, Kaśyapa drove away Paraśurāma from the earth to the south. Taking pity on Paraśurāma, the ocean gave him the region known as "Śūrpāraka". Kaśyapa seized Śūrpāraka also from Paraśurāma and gave it to Brāhmaṇas. Paraśurāma went to the forests after it. Later on, intermixture of castes took place in this region and anarchy prevailed there. At one time, Śūrpāraka sank down into Pātāla (lower world). Kaśyapa who saw this held the earth up, brought Kṣatriyas from the north and made them rulers of the country. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 49). This "Śūrpāraka" is believed to be Kerala.

9) *Other Details about Kaśyapa*.

(i) Kaśyapa arrived at the place of Arjuna's birth accompanied by other sages. (Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 122).

(ii) Kaśyapa flourished in Brahmā's assembly. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 11).

(iii) Once there was a dispute between Virocana, the son of Prahlāda and Sudhanvā, the son of Aṅgiras. It was Kaśyapa who settled this dispute. (See the 5th Para under the word Aṅgiras).

(iv) Once Kaśyapa went on a pilgrimage in the company of Yudhiṣṭhira. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 85).

(v) Once Brahmā gifted the entire earth to Kaśyapa at a Yajña. Bhūmidevī (Goddess of the earth) who was distressed at it, went to Pātāla and began to lament. At that time Kaśyapa propitiated the goddess by his austere penance. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 114).

(vi) After Paraśurāma had given the entire earth to Kaśyapa, Kaśyapa drove away Paraśurāma from the earth. Paraśurāma then shot an arrow into the sea and converted that portion of the sea into land. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 70, Verses 18 and 19).

(vii) When the war between Kauravas and Pāṇḍavas was in progress, Kaśyapa approached Droṇa and wanted him to bring the battle to a close. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 190).

(viii) Kaśyapa was also present with other sages at the time of Skanda's birth. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45).